

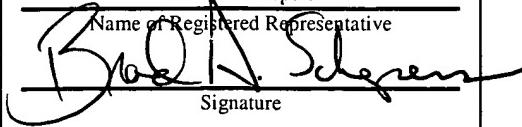
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:)	Before the Examiner:
Thuan Pham)	Zeinab E. El-Arini
)	
Application Serial No. 09/942,317)	Group Art Unit 1746
)	
Filed August 29, 2001)	Our Ref.: 8016-548
)	
APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR CLEANING A PROBE TIP)	January 30, 2004
)	

RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Sir:

In response to the first Office Action dated September 30, 2003, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks. Applicant's attorney has requested in a separate paper that the date for responding to the first Office Action be extended one (1) month, up to and including January 30, 2004. The statutory fee of \$110.00 under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a) for this extension request is enclosed herewith. Additionally, please provide any extensions of time necessary and charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:
January 30, 2004
_____ Date of Deposit
Brad A. Schepers
Name of Registered Representative
 _____ Signature
January 30, 2004
_____ Date of Signature

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the subject application for the first Office Action. Claims 1, 9, 18, 21 and 31-40 have been cancelled without prejudice for possible inclusion in a continuing application. Claims 2-8, 10-17, 19, 20, 22-24, 26, 28 and 29 have been amended via this Response to the first Office Action. In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.